

The ANSGAR LUTHERAN



Winston Photo From A. Devaney, N.Y.

Dear Friends, Touch Hands

*FRIENDS, dear friends, as years go on and heads
get gray, how fast the guests do go!
a hands, touch hands, with those that stay.
g hands to weak, old hands to young, around the
Christmas board, touch hands.*

*The false forget, the foe forgive, for every guest will go
and every fire burn low and cabin empty stand.
Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas day
may ever come to host or guest again.
Touch hands!*

—John Norton's Vagabond

News and Notes

Prayer

for reverence at Christmastime

O CHRIST OF BETHLEHEM, let us not forget Thee on Thy birthday. In our busy preparations and our joyous festivities may we not crowd Thee out of our thoughts as Thou wast crowded out of the Inn on that first Christmas long ago.

Forbid that we should spend all for transient pleasures and fail to find the deeper, richer joys that pass not away at eventide. Draw us back to Thy manger cradle, rekindle our sense of wonder and worship, and grant that we, finding Thee in the likeness of a little child, may feel a new reverence for childhood and a more earnest devotion to those qualities of heart which childhood incarnates.

Forgive our cynicism and our pride, banish our doubts, and restore our faith in the things we cannot see or hear: the star that shines in the souls of men, and the song of peace that lingers on in the troubled world.

Like the shepherds may we return to our humble tasks feeling that heaven is not so far away, and praising God that He is to be found not only in temples but also among the common things of life. Amen.

—J. D. Morrison.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

In the Name of our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, we extend to all sincere Christmas greetings. It is an exalted privilege to call upon a Name so wonderful in which to extend greetings. For He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Into each one of those inexhaustible Names we may, as far as it is within our capacity, crowd all the marvelous riches which they imply. How truly blessed to take that great and marvelous Name on our lips, and better still into our hearts in faith and wish Christmas greetings in it.

May this Christmas season bring to each one of you anew the joy, the peace, the goodwill which find their glorious and enduring expression in our Savior and Lord. May our Christmas King dwell in our hearts through faith, reign in our lives by His grace, live through our lives by the power of His Spirit; then will the greater, nobler, and more fruitful things take place; then will the New Year become greater and more blessed.

Yours in the service of the Christmas King

Hans C. Jersild

DR. SWANSEN OF DANA SUMMONED

Dr. H. Fred Swansen, 66, head of the Department of History at Dana College, Blair, Nebr., for twenty-three years died Dec. 3. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, and two sisters, Miss Loretta Swansen, Marshfield, Mass., and Mrs. Irving Hedtler, Ithaca, N. Y.

Dr. Swansen, known to historians and to thousands of former Dana students throughout the nation, was born Nov. 14, 1889, in Boston, Mass. He held the B. A. degree from Luther College, Decorah, Ia., the M. A. degree from the University of Minnesota, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa. In 1949, following research in this country and in Scandinavia, he published *The Founder of St. Ansgar*, a biography of Claus Lauritz Clausen, Danish-American pioneer leader in the central Midwest and the founder of the town of Ansgar, Ia. Scholarly articles from Swansen's hand have appeared in national journals.

Dr. Swansen is listed in the *Directory of American Scholars* for his work in the field of history. In 1938 he was a member of the Carnegie Foundation on International Law at the University of Michigan. He was a member of the American Historical Association, National Council of Geography Teachers, and the Norwegian-American Historical Association; he was a chairman of the Dana Chapter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Since its organization in 1954, he served as chairman of the Faculty Senate at Dana.

Prior to joining the faculty at Dana College, Dr. Swansen was principal of Gale College, Galesville, Wis., from 1920-1925, and was a member of the faculty of Luther College, Decorah, Ia., from 1926-1932. In 1943 and in 1944 he was on the faculty of the Iowa State Teachers College summer sessions.

A Church Bell for Japan

Pastor Paul C. Johnsen, our missionary in Japan, would like to have a church bell for a church. He writes that the Japanese know how to make Buddhist temple bells, but they do not know how to make good church bells. He hopes that there is one or two who can.

(Continued on page 7)

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JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
221 E. 8th Street
Spencer, Iowa

Glory to God In The Highest

By Edwin W. Petrusson

THE ADVENT of God's Christmas gift to world was an event of greatest magni-. First came the angelic message to the herds watching their flocks: "Be not d; for behold, I bring you good news of at joy... for to you is born this day... a or who is Christ the Lord..." Then enly the great heavenly choir confirm- ne angelic message in celestial praise of "Glory to God in the highest, and on a peace among men with whom He is ed!"

that God had planned from eternity to mankind is flashed in a few glorious ents of holy splendor to these un- ed shepherds on the fields of Bethle-. In all the world only these shepherds idea, busy with their accustomed tasks, were count- worthy of the "Gloria in Excelsis" chanted by the of heaven. Only on the fields of Bethlehem, and in table, where Mary "gave birth to her first-born son wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a er" did God reveal His glory. So in the quietness at first Christmas night Christ was born.

that night heaven came to earth. Of the shepherds told that "the glory of the Lord shone around ." The shining glory of the Lord indicated that en had been opened and that God Himself had very near to them. And as they went with haste to ehem to "see this thing that has happened" they I Jesus.

ey found Christ the Lord who is the same "yester- today, and forever." They found the Christ of tmas, who from the lowly beginning at Bethlehem the bitter, heart-breaking end at Calvary claimed , proved to be, and was declared by God to be, God fest in the flesh.

re then is the sublime truth of the Christmas Gos- God became man. He lived, walked, and had His among men. He came to redeem us from our sins. ve Himself to the uttermost. For us He lived a per- life. For us He gave Himself not only in Bethle- stable but even into the death on the Cross. hugh His abysmal poverty and limitless self-giving, us won for us the treasures of heaven. In the giving mself, He would have us receive Heaven's most ificent gift. This gift is Christ our Savior. With the imperishable and everlasting grace of God is ours.

glorious wonder of this wonderful child is re- l in the angelic promise made before the Christ-



Child's birth: "He shall save His people from their sins." That promise has been fulfilled. No sin is too great, no offense too vile, no wrong too oppressive but that it can be removed freely and completely and for all time by Him "whose blood cleanseth from all sin."

He calls from sin to grace, from darkness to light, from poverty to riches. No wonder we love the Christmas Gospel so full of promise and revelation and salvation and song.

May our Christmas festivities draw us close to Christ in repentance, humility, and faith. And as we are drawn nigh to our Savior, what will we give him? A surrendered life! Without this nothing else can please Him. Christians everywhere are singing the Advent prayer of Phillips Brooks:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

As we sing "cast out our sin and enter in" and "O come to us, abide with us," how about bringing our homes and their social life to Christ so that in our festivities He will not be crowded out? How about bringing a friend or loved one to Christ? How about bringing an "extra gift," a special love offering to the local church or Lutheran World Action or one of the missions?

"God so loved the world that He gave..." May our response in song and deed be joyously given: "Glory to God in the Highest!"

"Christ, Combat And Christians"

By Viggo O. Aronsen

It is a strange and even upsetting experience to recall, to relive a "fire mission completed with all rounds expended." That is the price for all of us who remember the fantastic mixture of Christ, combat, and Christmas of West Chorwon, Korea, 1952. I did not keep a diary but under such circumstances, memory is slow to fade away.

You may think it self-evident, or even say it casually, but the most important memory is that Jesus Christ was in Chorwon! He was personally there, constantly comforting men with His presence. Our Lord was present through the ministry of His faithful followers, dressed in issued clothing who were His witnesses. Like the youngster who drove a tracked vehicle to Chinese held ground, evacuating many American wounded under fire. When brought before the regimental commander, recommended for a Silver Star or higher, he said "My Lord Jesus Christ was with me, I don't want any medals." Some called the young man "crazy" but he was a fool for Christ's sake and his witness could not be overlooked. Granted, there were no atheists but many men were skeptics, many fatalists, some earnest seekers after the Word and no extra special number of Christians. But it was Jesus Christ, present and living, in and through these few who made an impact in West Chorwon. We had five ordained Korean Christian ministers (in one battalion alone) among our attached native personnel and their lives and testimony in Christ steadily made everyone aware that He was here. It took some time for the men who had left a book or an historical description about Jesus or the family's faith in faith safely back home. They came to Chorwon empty handed only to become aware of the Christ Who would not be disregarded.

As days and weeks went by the Christian fellowship grew: men quietly met in a gun bunker for prayer, in a wire section bunker for Bible Study, in the mess tent to rehearse a hymn for the next worship service. These small groups grew and the very presence of Christ in them could not be avoided. Men began to make a decision either to be in the Presence or to consciously stay away. No pressure... simply Presence.

Then too, there was combat in Chorwon. Some preferred to call it "a police action." We in turn joked about "a lot of cops getting killed." The Chinese brought to bear the fearful and devilish ingenuity of centuries of oriental civilization upon and in modern warfare. Their



age-old patience was only matched by their expert of the latest Russian weapons. The enemy knew exactly where we were located; we rarely were sure of them unless they were out in the open in daylight... which never... unless you count an exceptionally large group of two or three. As one official military correspondent said "our best intelligence agent was a Korean woman with an infant strapped on her back." This the eyes of a modern military machine! This was a war of patience and of nerves, of the Chinese soldier who had no better place to be against the young American who saw no reason for being there at all!

The Chinese started the war and started it every night thereafter about nine or ten in the evening later. They could "thread a needle" with their artillery whomp their nauseating mortar on a U. S. dime, and burp their small arms with devastating effect. Sleep was a constantly interrupted treasure but never a complete rest.

And in this setting, bitterly cold and blanketed with snow, the days wore by and Christmas came to Chorwon. Little by little the imported decorations were set up inside living, working and fighting spaces until there was no doubt as to the season which was upon us. At our outfits had some area set apart as a combination mess, theater, meeting place and Church. Many took the time to provide separate worship facilities. The messes were also fixed up, prepared and made ready for Christmas. All the outward signs even to the turkey, mince meat pie and canned shrimp cocktail were there. By Christmas 1952 was more than outward signs and we knew it. The Christ-consciousness among our "timers" was deeply evident in the planning and working. One wire section corporal excitedly showed me a completed offering, a fine Nativity scene to be used as an altar backdrop, all wired with flashlight bulbs and batteries. Luke 2:1-14 read here became more than the "old familiar Gospel," it became the entry of the Christ child, living, throbbing, personal. In another unit a rugged mess sergeant said, "Chaplain, what we need is

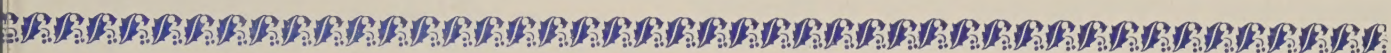
Pastor Viggo O. Aronsen is pastor at our church at Brooklyn, N.Y. Before coming to Brooklyn he was chaplain in Korea. The article he writes is from his experiences there one Christmas.

Christmas is a real altar" and proceeded to build the looking altar north of Seoul! We communed at that, at our Lord's table. And although it was blown to a month later, we'll always know how great a gift received from our Lord: Himself. In a headquarters the first sergeant insisted that his "chapel" would be to be a big and inviting place for men to worship. So put together three large squad tents, complete with altar table," ammunition box pews and three stoves. A large space was filled three times over Christmas and Day. That was the time when two newcomers, very excellent but liberal Jewish doctors, came to ship perhaps to capture the "romance of Christmas."

They eased away when instead of the romance they were confronted by the Messiah incarnate. Christmas came to Chorwon with the thrust and power of God and we found ourselves delightedly helpless within His holy hands.

I can not recall the fire mission that night, cold, still and clear. But all of us who were there remember that with the angel of God there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

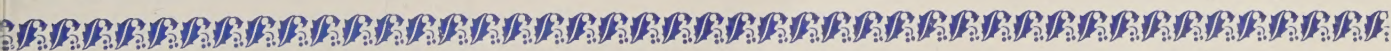
Glory be to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"



My Christmas Candle

By Mrs. C. O. Showalter

We placed a little candle in my window, and tonight when dusk has fallen o'er the world, I want my little light
to shine just like a star, and cast its gleam across the snow.
may it mean the same as did that star of long ago.
want this little light of mine to say to all mankind,
within this humble home tonight the Christ Child
you may find.
as he came to Bethlehem that far-off Christmas night,
comes to each of you." Oh, tell them, little light.
there's a little candle in my heart. With love it shines
tonight.
though all the years I'll keep it burning, ever burning
bright.
I'll not let my love grow cold, I will not let it die.
if I do, this candle can not cheer the passer-by.
little candle in my heart, how bright this world will
grow
you shine on through all the year as on this night you
glow.
message of the Christ Child you will give away.
within this humble heart there dwells the Christ today.
—Gospel Messenger



"The Bethlehem Story"

A Live Pageant

By Mrs. Allan D. Hansen

The Outdoor Nativity Pageant entitled, "The Bethlehem Story" is believed to be the only one of its kind in the United States. Started by the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lynwood five years ago, the Pageant is becoming a part of the traditional Christmas events in the Los Angeles area. As one person who comes to the Pageant each year (a member of another church) stated it, "It is *the* place to go at Christmas time—our family wouldn't miss it for anything!" It is expected that some six or seven thousand people will view the Pageant this year between December 25 and 28.

The entire setting for the play, including a scene from the streets of Bethlehem, the Inn, the Stable, the shepherd fields, and King Herod's court is located on the playground and parking area of the church's Educational Unit.

The story is presented by a cast of 100 people, dressed in beautiful and authentic costumes. Live animals, including Joseph and Mary's donkey, a Roman centurion's horse, several sheep, and a cow add much in the way of interest to the onlookers. Especially are the children delighted by the use of animals in the production.

The narration and speaking parts are clearly heard over a loud speaking system together with beautiful organ music and choral singing. The use of Christmas carols between scenes adds much to the enjoyment of the presentation. Beautiful lighting effects are obtained by the use of spotlights, a rheostat, and colored spotlights.

Three trumpeters sound the opening note of the Pageant, followed by the appearance of eight Roman soldiers who march into the village streets making way for the centurion on horseback who reads the proclamation "that all must go to be taxed."

The travelers, men women and children, are seen making their way to Bethlehem and many enter an inn, welcomed by the innkeeper. Mary and Joseph find the inn overcrowded and the innkeeper is at a loss to help them until he remembers his stable which he apologetically offers them.

The scene then changes to the shepherds who are gathered around a bonfire. Suddenly, an angel appears telling of the birth of Jesus. This is followed by one of the most dramatic scenes of the Pageant—the sudden appearance of the host of angels, high above the shepherds.

Later the wisemen are seen, following the bright shining star and Herod's court is viewed while the wisemen make their inquiry concerning the "new-born King."



The Pageant draws to a close as the wisemen kneel at the manger to present their gifts and the angel choir again appears in a song of praise to God.

Presented for the sole purpose of bringing before the community a more Christ-centered Christmas celebration no admission is charged or collections made. The pageant is shown for four consecutive nights, twice each evening, first at 7:45 and then at 8:30 p.m. Each showing lasts about 25 minutes.

Originator of the Pageant and director of the pageant committee is Harold Lougee, one of the charter members of St Paul's. Author of the script used in "The Bethlehem Story" is Rev. Samuel Hansen, another member of the congregation. Many others give generously of their time in making costumes, building the set, arranging the lighting effects, preparing the tape recording, taking care of the animals, working on "props" and make-up, and helping on various committees. Director of the pageant itself is Mrs. Joseph Bissell and she together with the 100 other members of the cast spend much time in rehearsing the actions to be used in the pageant. All who work with the pageant, regardless whether their part in it be great or small, do so gladly and willingly, knowing that they are having a part in presenting a Christ-honoring Christmas celebration.

Our Foreign Mission Fields

NEW MISSIONARY TO SUDAN



Miss Ilean Rohe was commissioned Sunday afternoon, October 9th in Nazareth Lutheran Church at Kenmare, North Dakota—her home congregation. The beautiful church was filled to capacity for the service. The local pastor, Rev. Petrusson, preached the sermon to the congregation. Rev. N. B. Hansen of Hutchinson, Minnesota, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, preached the commissioning sermon. Other pastors present were Alfred

Hansen, Froid, Montana; Johan Petersen, Flaxton, North Dakota; and Silas Larsen of Trinity, Kenmare, North Dakota.

Miss Rohe was commissioned before the altar with prayer, the word of God, and the laying on of hands. Following this she spoke to the congregation asking for prayers and support.

At the conclusion of the service a fellowship hour was held in the church parlors. Lunch was served by lay members of the congregation, and an informal program was presented at which many encouraging words were spoken by pastors and lay people.

Miss Rohe is a granddaughter of the late Pastor Rohe. She received the finest possible recommendations from pastors and lay people. She left Minneapolis by train October 15th. She is now busy with hospital work and the Hausa language.

Miss Ilean Rohe was born in Bowbells, North Dakota, November 4th, 1926. She was baptized in the small Lutheran church near Bowbells. Early in life she was influenced by the Christian life of her parents. During childhood she attended Sunday School and enjoyed it very much. In youth she experienced inner conflicts which are often characteristic of that age. These conflicts were largely solved through a personal acceptance of Christ as her Savior.

NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

Letters that may have an old ring to them are willing to give to the Lord. If anyone is able to help Pastor Johnsen write him by air mail. He will then give the information needed to get it to Japan. Pastor Johnsen's address is 74 Kasuga, Cho, Chiba City, Japan.

Denver, Colo. St Mark's Lutheran, under the leadership of Irving Tange. The congregation will hold a Preaching-Teaching-Reach-Mission in November. Pastor Sorenson of Graettinger was

guest speaker. Both the pastor and the members were greatly encouraged by this mission. One lay member writes that it was good to share with one another and discover that we were all intent on "Our Father's Business." "One of the big results was the new vision and inspiration that many of us received in relation to our work as a congregation in God's great Kingdom."

Kankakee, Ill., Pastor Chr. Bertelsen. The first Sunday in Advent six adults and two children joined the congregation by baptism, and the next Sun-

At the age of eighteen she entered nurses' training at Trinity Hospital in Minot, North Dakota. There she attended and later joined the Zion Lutheran Church. It was also there that she became interested in foreign missions.

In January, 1949, she entered the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis and spent a little over a year there. Then she accepted a position as nurse at the House of Mercy in Fargo, N. Dak. She served there for a year and a half. Then she returned to the L.B.I. and finished the two-year course in 1952.

During the following summer she worked in a small hospital near her home, and transferred her church membership to Nazareth Lutheran Church at Kenmare, N. Dak. The challenge of foreign missions continued to assert itself, and she decided to return to the L.B.I. and take up the foreign missions course. Some time after the conclusion of that course she applied to the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church for service in its Sudan field. After necessary physical examinations and recommendations she was accepted. As mentioned above, she is now at work in the field. May God richly bless her in the work for the salvation of the people in the Sudan.

A NEW CHAPEL IN JAPAN

As previously reported (TAL, Oct. 24) there is a great need for a portable chapel in the Japanese field that has been assigned to missionary Paul C. Johnsen. It is an entirely new work which has been started in this territory, and one of the great needs is therefore a meeting place where the Gospel may be preached. It is a great joy to report that a small portable chapel will soon be erected as substantial gifts have been received for this purpose. The Minnesota District and the W. M. S. in Minnesota have given about \$600.00 and St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Lynwood, California, has donated \$1200.00 for a chapel. This gift is, of course, over and above the \$3600.00 which St. Paul's each year contributes to Pastor Paul Johnsen's salary. A generous gift of one thousand dollars for the chapel has been received from Mr. John Rasmussen, Pasadena, Calif. The Japan Mission Committee is deeply grateful for these gifts as well as for the gifts to the Japan Mission in general, to be used where the need is greatest.

Paul C. Nyholm, chairman.

day twelve adults and five children were admitted as members.

Spencer, Iowa. 37 members joined the congregation Dec. 4. Five adults were confirmed, three were baptized.

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Tommy's Prayer

In a dark and dismal alley, where the
sunshine never came,
Dwelt a little lad named Tommy,
sickly, delicate and pale;
He had never yet been healthy, but
had lain since he was born,
Dragging out his weak existence,
well-nigh hopeless and forlorn.

He was six, was little Tommy,
'twas just five years ago
Since his drunken mother dropped
him, and the babe was crippled so,
He had never known the comfort of a
mother's tender care
But her cruel blows and curses made
his pain still worse to bear.

There he lay within the cellar from
the morning till the night
Starved, neglected, cursed, ill treated,
naught to make his dull life
bright;
Not a single friend to love him, not a
living thing to love,
For he knew not of a Saviour, or a
Heaven up above.

'Twas a quiet summer evening, and
the alley too was still;
Tommy's little heart was sinking and
he felt so lonely till
Floating up the quiet alley, swaying
inwards from the street,
Came the sound of some one singing,
sounding oh, so clear and sweet.

Eagerly did Tommy listen as the sing-
ing nearer came;
Oh, that he could see the singer; how
he wished he wasn't lame.
Then he called and shouted loudly
till the singer heard the sound,
And on noting whence it issued soon
the little cripple found.

'Twas a maiden rough and rugged,
hair unkempt and naked feet,
All her garments torn and ragged,
her appearance far from neat.
"So you called me," said the maiden;
"wonder what you wants o' me,
Most folks call me singing Jessie,
what may your name chance to
be?"

"My name's Tommy, I'm a cripple,
and wants to hear you sing,
For it makes me feel so happy—sing
me something—anything!"
Jessie laughed and answered smiling:
"I can't stay here very long,
But I'll sing a hymn to please you,
what I calls the glory song."

Then she sang to him of Heaven,
pearly gates and streets of gold
Where the happy angel children are
not starved or nipped with cold,
But where happiness and gladness

never can decrease or end,
And where kind and loving Jesus
is their sovereign and their friend.

Oh, how Tommy's eyes did glisten
as he drank in every word
As it fell from singing Jessie—was
it true what he had heard?
And so anxiously he asked her: "Is
there really such a place?"
And a tear began to trickle down his
pallid little face.

"Tommy, you're a little heathen;
why, it's up beyond the sky,
And if you will love the Saviour, you
shall go there when you die."
"Then," said Tommy, "tell me, Jessie,
how can I the Saviour love,
When I'm down in this 'ere cellar,
and he's up in Heaven above?"

So the little ragged maiden, who had
heard at Sunday school
All about the way to Heaven, and the
Christian's golden rule,
Taught the little cripple Tommy,
how to love and how to pray;
Then she sang a song of Jesus, kissed
his cheek and went away.

Tommy lay within the cellar, which
had grown so dark and cold,
Thinking all about the children in the
streets of shining gold;
And he heeded not the darkness of
that damp and chilly room,
For the joy in Tommy's bosom could
disperse the deepest gloom.

Oh, if I could only see it, thought the
cripple as he lay,
Jessie said, that Jesus listens, and I
think I'll try to pray.
So he put his hands together, and he
closed his little eyes,
And in accents weak, yet earnest, sent
this message to the skies:

"Gentle Jesus, please forgive me, as I
didn't know before,
That you cared for little cripples who
is weak and very poor,
And I never heard of Heaven till that
Jessie came to-day
And told me all about it, so I wants to
try and pray.

You can see me, can't you, Jesus?
Jessie told me that you could,
And somehow must believe it for it
seems so prime and good,
And she told me if I loved you, I
should see you when I die,
In the bright and happy Heaven that
is up beyond the sky.

Lord, I'm only just a cripple, and I'm
no use here below,
For I heard my mother whisper she'd

be glad if I could go;
And I'm cold and hungry sometim
and I feel so lonely too;
Can't you take me, gentle Jesus,
to Heaven along o' you?

Oh, I'd be so good and patient, and
never cry or fret,
And your kindness to me, Jesus, I
would surely not forget,
I would love you all I know of a
would never make a noise:
Can't you find me just a corner, wh
I'll watch the other boys?

Oh! I think you'll do it, Jesus, som
thing seems to tell me so
For I feel so glad and happy, and
do so want to go;
How I long to see you, Jesus, and t
children all so bright.
Come and fetch me, won't you, Jesu
Come and fetch me home to-
night?"

Tommy ceased his supplication, he h
told his soul's desire,
And he waited for the answer till h
head began to tire,
Then he turned towards his corn
and lay huddled in a heap,
Closed his little eyes so gently a
was quickly fast asleep.

Oh, I wished that every scoffer cou
have seen his little face,
As he lay there in the corner, in th
damp and noisome place;
For his countenance was shining li
an angel's fair and bright,
And it seemed to fill the cellar with
holy heavenly light.

He had only heard of Jesus from a
ragged singing girl,
He might well have wondered, po
dered till his brain began to whir
But he took it as she told it and b
lieved it then and there,
Simply trusting in the Saviour and h
kind and tender care.

In the morning when the moth
came to wake her crippled boy,
She discovered that his features wo
a look of sweetest joy,
And she shook him somewhat rough
ly, but the cripple's face was col
He had gone to join the children in
the streets of shining gold.

Tommy's prayer had soon been an-
swered, and the Angel Death ha
come
To remove him from his cellar to h
bright and heavenly home,
Where sweet comfort, joy and gla
ness never can decrease or end,
And where Jesus reigns eternally, h
Sovereign and his Friend.

—Source unknown.

Christmas Today

By Fred C. M. Hansen

*"O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today."*

—Phillips Brooks

Christmas Day were taken from the calendar, if Bethlehem were taken from the map, and the event of Christ's birth were taken away from history, the world would have been in bondage today, and the future would have only darkness and despair. The coming of Jesus Christ has not eliminated all evil from the world nor from human hearts, but it has brought salvation to millions, it has deterred and restrained iniquity, which otherwise would have swept like a flood over the nations.

Christmas is more than a date on the calendar. It's a present day experience for those who believe in Christ. It's sin that disturbs our joy and robs us of our peace. The holy Child of Bethlehem can and will enter our hearts, cast out our sin, and be born in us **today**. The fact that we can find Jesus a present help in trouble,

helping us triumph over temptations, giving us strength and courage to carry on in spite of difficulties, is what makes Christmas a **Christmas today**.

Many young men are today far away from home in military service, many are confined to a hospital bed, others are bed-ridden with pain and suffering in their homes. They cannot celebrate the Holy Season in the sanctuary with God's people. If Christmas were only an outward observance of an historical event, there would not be much Christmas joy for them. But if Christmas means a joyous experience in our hearts and lives, then we can all have **Christmas today**, regardless of where and under what circumstances we live.

May the Holy Child of Bethlehem cast out our sin, and be born in us today. Then shall we rejoice together for the tidings of great joy, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

A Singing Christmas

*A Cry from the earth,
A Song in the sky!
The greatness of God
In a Baby doth lie!
Oh sing "Hallelujah"!
Salvation brought nigh!*

*Sweet Christ-Child to Thee
All praises belong—
'Twas Love from the first,
And Love all along!—
Oh sing "Hallelujah"!
Fair Heaven's own Song!*

Rev. 19:1-6.

With Every Good Wish



THE LUTHER LEAGUE

John W. Nielsen, Editor

My Favorite Christmases Of Literature

By Luella Nielsen

I've just finished reading my copy of **Christmas Chimes**, and my thoughts are full of Christmas. So many things have been written about that happiest of days—true stories, legends, and the products of some author's creative imagination. As I sit here, tucked up on the davenport, enjoying a rare couple hours of leisure, and indulging a sudden yen for popcorn, I can see my bookcase across the room. On its shelves are anthologies I've used in literature classes, book club selections, treasured volumes that go back to my childhood.

They bring to my mind memorable scenes of Christmas from far away and long ago. There's that opening chapter in **Little Women**, where Jo grumbles that Christmas won't be Christmas with father away from home. And then the girls discover that the holiday is a much happier one when they do without their own gifts to bring Marmee something and give up their breakfast to the poor, sick Hummel family.

At home I used to read aloud to my younger brothers and sisters. Among the books we enjoyed were the stories about the Five Little Peppers, especially the chapter about their simple preparations for Christmas—the gingerbread, the molasses candy, the popcorn, and the hickory nuts covered with bright paper to decorate the tree. But perhaps the most vivid descriptions of Christmas smells and sounds and colors come from Dickens', **Pickway Papers** and Washington Irving's **Bracebridge Hall**.

Each year while I was in high school, the chorus and dramatics club combined to present a Christmas program. Two of the plays that live on in my memory are "Why the Chimes Rang," the story of the little boy who brought his only possession to the cathedral as a gift for the Christ Child and made the chimes ring for joy, and "Dust of the Road" which tells of two Christmas Eve visitors to the home of an embezzler contemplating betrayal of his friend. The visitors were the spirits of Judas Iscariot and the Saviour, and their coming changed the thief's heart. One of my high school teachers made a tradition of reading to us on the last day before the holidays Van Dyke's classic "The Other Wise Man," telling the story of a fourth wise man who stopped at crucial moments to respond to appeals for help and so failed to reach his goal until the time of the Crucifixion.

Christmas at Dana always meant Dickens's immortal picture of grasping, greedy old Scrooge's conversion to generosity and good temper and Tiny Tim Cratchit's benediction, "God bless us everyone."

In recent years I've read and enjoyed Roark Bradford's bit of naive Negro folklore "How Come Christmas," in which "ole Sandy Claus" brings a shiny red apple to "the po' little Jesus-child" and is commissioned by God to make His children happy one day out of the year. I've re-read Hans Christian Andersen's legend of "The Fir Tree," with its hard lesson of being satisfied with one's life instead of longing for a moment of tinsel glory and show. And I've discovered a touching and delightful story I missed in my childhood, the story "The Little Hunchback" written by the author of **Little Lord Fauntleroy**. It tells of a boy healed of leprosy on that first Christmas in Bethlehem.

No reminiscence of Christmas literature would be complete without mention of O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi" with its emphasis on love and sacrifice as the essence of giving. Poor foolish Della and Jim were among the wisest of the wise because they loved each other so much that each gave up his all to bring the other happiness.

And that, of course, brings us to the truest and best of all Christmas stories—the story we all know and should never forget—the story of the Heavenly Father who "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" as a Christmas gift to His worldly children.

(Luella Nielsen, the author of this article, teaches Junior and senior English in the high school at Blair, Nebraska.—Editor.)

The Hymns Youth Loves to Sing

Last week's top ten hymns remain intact as 37 leaguers from the Fredricksburg league at Minden, Nebraska and the leagues from Rutland, Iowa and Milltown, Wisconsin express their opinions.

1. Beautiful Saviour (135)
2. Rock of Ages (53)
3. Holy, Holy, Holy (49)
4. The Old Rugged Cross (41)
5. Living for Jesus (40)
6. A Mighty Fortress (35)
7. What a Friend We Have in Jesus (35)
8. Onward Christian Soldiers (33)
9. Sweet Hour of Prayer (33)
10. Beneath the Cross of Jesus (30)

Nineteen leagues representing 263 young people have now reported. Some states and many leagues are still unheard from. Where are California, Oregon, Montana, Michigan and the other states?

Symbols of the Church

THE WORD

By Harold E. Nelson

The symbol of The Word is an open Bible. All Lutherans confess that the Bible is the Word of God. The Lutheran Church emphasizes the proclamation of the Word of God as the heart of the Christian worship and the fulfilling of the second commandment. Preaching on the Bible and the Sacraments constitute the means of grace. In all Lutheran doctrine, practice, and life the Bible is central and authoritative.

The Word of God is assembled under two great divisions, the Old and the New Testament. The Old Testament is God's revelation prior to the incarnation of Christ. Its mood is that of longing for the advent of the promised Messiah. The New Testament is the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. It is the revelation of God through Christ.

II Timothy 3:15-17 it is written: "... the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."



When we see the symbol of the Word of God, we are reminded that we may feel joyous and secure at all times; we never need be in the want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. As Martin Luther has said, "... He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which would lead him on to his destruction."

(Harold Nelson is a junior seminarian from Ellendale, Minnesota.—Editor.)

---Enrich Someone's Christmas With a Chimes---

By Donald A. Olsen

Christmas Chimes has been a tradition in our synod many years and has brought much enjoyment to the people of our church. Each year from the publicity chair has come a slogan and devices of various types to promote the sale of Chimes. I now have this job, and it is an enjoyable one.

I said that we are not particularly interested in the number of Chimes that are sold, you would no doubt think me to be a poor promotional man. But we are not particularly interested in numbers. Our emphasis is not "15 in '55." Our slogan for this year is evident of that.

ENRICH SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS WITH A CHIMES.

What is the thinking behind such a slogan? Well, the slogan means just what it says. In working with Chimes we have found that approximately the same number of Chimes are sold every year. The families of our churches are the ones who buy them. With this in mind I wonder whether we were getting the Chimes to the people whose Christmas was in need of enrichment. What about the people who sit in the hospital waiting rooms, doctors' and dentists' offices, or those in the old people's homes and armed forces barracks? If a Chimes were put in these places, someone might be helped and even brought to Christ. This is our "mission to the reading public." Yes, we want our church members to buy the Chimes, but there are others with whom we rub shoulders as we walk along the street who need the Babe of

Bethlehem. So our aim in selling Chimes is to "place Christian reading material wherever there are people who need the message of Christmas" and "to spread the name of Christ through the printed word."

Therefore we are not emphasizing numbers, but we are urging the leaguers to place a Chimes in these different locations and to give them to patients, shut-ins, old folks, soldiers, neighbors, and friends.

Sell Chimes to be sure, but put them where they will be noticed, read, and appreciated. This is the way that we can spread the message of Christmas and the name of Christ to those who are in need of the true Christmas spirit.

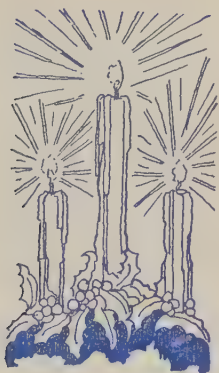
This is the meaning of this year's slogan: **ENRICH SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS WITH A CHIMES.**

(Donald Olsen is Vice-President of the Synodical Lutheran League and promotions chairman for Christmas Chimes. His home is Racine, Wisconsin. He has taken a year off from his formal seminary work to serve as student intern at Norwalk, California.—Editor.)

THIS WEEK'S ADVENT QUESTION:

Am I ready today if Christ should come in judgment?

BY THE FIRESIDE



A Christmas Greeting!

A Merry Christmas to you!
Merry with holy mirth;
As happy a Christmas to you
As can be on this earth;
A consecrated Christmas,
A Christmas full of rest:
God give you, for your Christmas,
Whate'er his love deems best.
—An Old Christmas Greeting

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

According to legend, the good monk St. Francis of Assisi one Christmas tried to think how he could make the Christ story real to the people of the villages in Italy. Suddenly, he had an idea. He would set out the story and have real Italian people take the parts of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and kings.

So on Christmas eve, when the people came to the little village church, there in the candlelight they saw the manger scene. There was the stable and a real Joseph and Mary and the babe. The shepherds knelt there, and the kings.

The story says that the people knelt to pray and that then they burst forth into singing. So filled with joy were they that they sang all night long, and this was the real beginning of carol singing.
—Children's Worker

THE MARVEL

The feet of the humblest
may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest
have trod.
This, this is the marvel
to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets
of Christmas have pealed.
That mankind
are the children of God.
—Phillips Brooks

CHRISTMAS

By Johnstone G. Patrick

The wintry winds of Christmas
That sweep the Eastern sky,
Have hushed their strident symphony
To sing a lullaby.

The big bright stars of Christmas—
A necklace for the night—
Braid beauty round His bracken-bed
Like lovely candlelight.

The little trees of Christmas
That grew where snow now drifts,
Are locked in many upper rooms
Abloom with toys and gifts.

The golden dreams of Christmas,
The frankincense of joy,
Are all, as myrrh, a part of Him—
This bracken-bedded Boy!

Oh, dreams and trees and big bright-
stars . . .
Oh, wintry winds that sing . . .
Heaven and earth together greet
The coming of the King!

—United Church Observer

14th CENTURY CAROL

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled,
To the world a Stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can he be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of the race
Who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth!
Wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly for
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were singing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child,
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a Stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;

Praise his name in all the earth,
Hail the King of Glory.

—English words by Joseph S. Cook

The old doctor had never refused
a call, from rich or poor, but now
he was tired.

"Have you any money?" he asked
the midnight caller.

"Certainly," he replied.

"Then go to the new doctor. I'm too
old to get out of bed for anybody who
can pay for it."

NEVER A STAR SO WHITE

By G. J. Neumann

Never a star so white,
Never a star so bright
As the star that rose in the night
When the little Lord Jesus came!

Never a song so fair,
Never a song so rare
As the angel song in the air
When the little Lord Jesus came!

Never a heart so sad,
Never a heart so glad
As the heart that Mary had
When the little Lord Jesus came!

THE LIGHT

A little light in Bethlehem,
No larger than a candle's flame,
A wee white light in Bethlehem,
Silver and small it came.
And many slept and did not see
The faint, far gleam when dark un-
furled
The little light that grew to be
The Light of all the world.

—Author Not Known

CHRISTMAS LIGHT

The Sun of Righteousness arose
That first glad Christmas morn;
The glory of the Lord shone forth
The dark world's Light was born

At Christmas time we make our home
Look gay and sparkling bright;
'Tis better still within our hearts
To have the Heavenly Light.

"Ye are the light," He said, and we
Must shed His light abroad,
So others, seeing, glorify
And follow Christ the Lord.

—Mabel E. Palmer

Moe and Joe were fishing in Florida waters. Suddenly Joe felt a jerk on his line. "Moe," he said quietly "I got me a haddock!"
"Vell," said Moe, "vy don't you take an aspirin?"

"I'm sorry," said the diner, who hoped to get away with it, "but I haven't any money to pay for the meal."

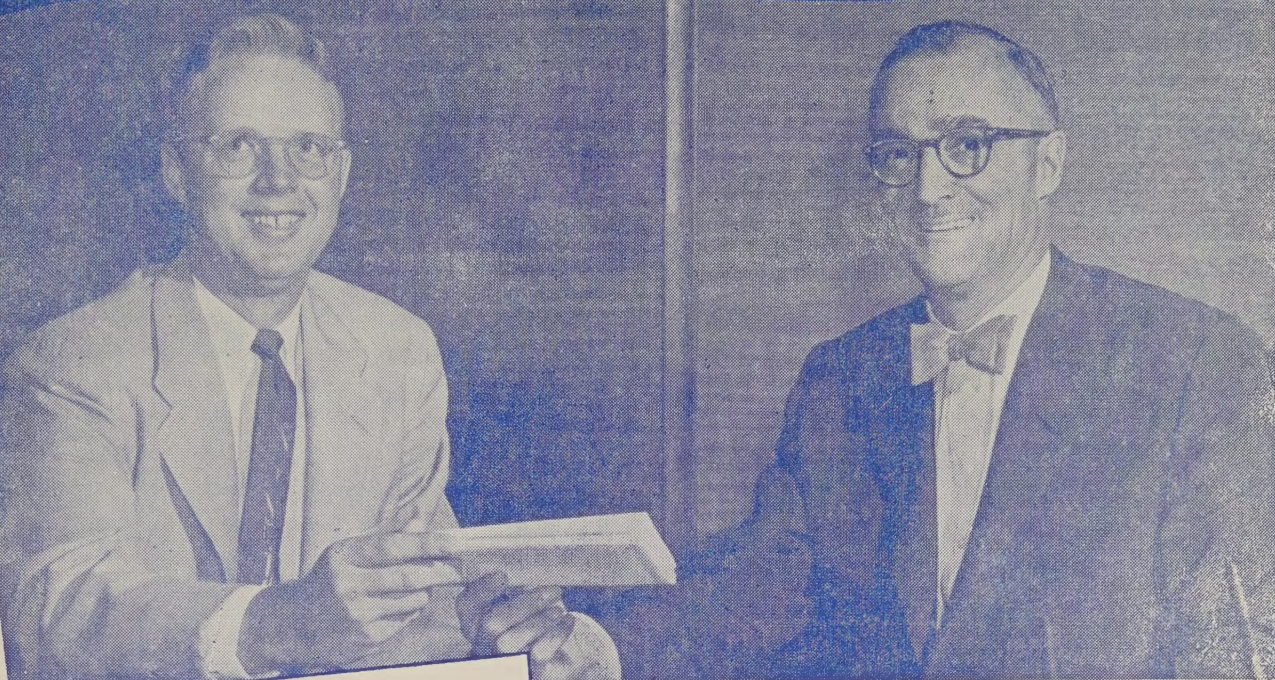
"That's all right," said the cashier. "We'll write your name on the wall and you can pay the next time you come in."

"Don't do that. Everybody who comes in will see it."

"Oh, no, they won't. Your overcoat will be hanging over it."

Here's how Valparaiso University will receive \$25,000

THROUGH MR. NEILS' PERSONAL LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM WITH LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD



THE FLOUR CITY ORNAMENTAL IRON CO.
ESTABLISHED 1893
2537 27th AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS 6, MINNESOTA
August 12, 1955



REGISTERED MAIL

Dr. O. P. Kretzmann, President
Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

Dear President Kretzmann:

I believe it was two years ago that I suggested to the members of the National Advisory Board and the Board of Directors of Valparaiso University, that the members of these two bodies give consideration to a personal life insurance program in which Valparaiso University is designated the beneficiary.

This suggestion was prompted by the fact that acquisition of a personal fortune under present income and estate tax laws is the most difficult, and that the annual premium on a life insurance policy made payable to the University is a proper deduction from income before calculating the income tax.

To demonstrate that I was sincere in my suggestion, I am now happy to enclose Lutheran Brotherhood Life Insurance Contract E421203 in the principal amount of \$25,000, made payable to Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Sincerely yours,
Henry J. Neils
Henry J. Neils

HJN:mm

Ruben N. Egeberg, LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD Representative, left, delivers to Henry J. Neils, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer of Flour City Ornamental Iron Co. of Minneapolis, Minn., the \$25,000 life insurance policy in which Mr. Neils designated Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., as beneficiary.

Perhaps there is some Lutheran institution in which you have a special, personal interest — a school, church, mission, hospital, orphanage, home for the aged — which would be a worthy recipient of your beneficial planning through your personal life insurance program. We invite your inquiries. Simply fill in the coupon and mail.

Mail this coupon...

GENTLEMEN: I am interested in enlarging my personal insurance program naming as beneficiary an organization in which I'm interested.

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2

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Lutheran Brotherhood

LIFE INSURANCE FOR LUTHERANS

CARL F. GRANRUD, President

608 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis 2, Minn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Child- ren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Pen- sion Fund
Total Synodical Budget \$275,202.00.								
Previously acknowledged	83298.58	23229.00	87030.00	29940.00	61546.00	7800.00	1542.00	64115.00
McCabe, Mont., Eben-Ezer Luth. Church. By John Hoffman, Seattle, Wash.	150.00		50.00	50.00				50.00
McCabe, Mont., Eben-Ezer Luth.	115.00							115.00
Blair, Nebr., First Luth. Church, Thanksgiving offering	220.74							220.74
Audubon, Ia., Our Savior's Luth. Church	1850.00	50.00	600.00	100.00	500.00			600.00
Peoria, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Petersen in memory of Sena Carlsen, Altadena, Calif.	3.00		3.00					
Peoria, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Arndt Petersen in memory of Christian Jersild, Neenah, Wis.	3.00							3.00
Oakland, Calif., Our Savior's Luth. Church	400.00	50.00	100.00	50.00	100.00			100.00
Oakland, Calif., Mrs. Olga Winther of Our Savior's Luth. Church	5.00							5.00
Selma, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jorgensen of Pella Church	50.00		25.00		25.00			
Eugene, Ore., Bethesda Luth. Church for the Oaks Children's Home in memory of Andrew Miller	45.25	45.25						
Eugene, Ore., Bethesda Luth. Church, Thanksgiving offering	229.91							229.91
Eugene, Ore., Bethesda Luth. Church	500.00	50.00	200.00	100.00	150.00			
McNabb, Ill., Emmaus Luth. S. S.	20.00	10.00				10.00		
Ruskin, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. Glen E. Schiermeyer in memory of Mother	12.50					12.50		
The United Ev. Luth. Church in memory of Rev. L. H. Kjaer	10.00							10.00
Detroit, Mich., Northwest Trinity Luth. Church	250.40		100.00	50.40	50.00			50.00
Indianapolis, Ind., First Trinity Ev. Luth. S. S., Birthday Bank offering	11.00					11.00		
Harlan, Ia., Immanuel Luth. S. S.	12.00		12.00					
La Grange, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. John Lorentzen in memory of Martin Kjeldsen of Golgotha Church, Chicago	10.00		10.00					
Brooklyn, Wis., Brooklyn Luth. Church	75.00		25.00		25.00			25.00
Selma, Calif., Mrs. Marie Andersen in memory of Thorvald L. Andersen.	16.00				16.00			
McNabb, Ill., Emmaus Luth. Church, Thanksgiving offering	23.35							23.35
Humboldt, Ia., Dorcas Ladies Aid of Trinity Luth. Church	95.00	20.00	25.00			15.00	10.00	25.00
Blair, Nebr., First Luth. Church	225.00	25.00	100.00	25.00				75.00
Saxeville, Wis., St. John's L. A. S.	25.00		25.00					
Waupaca, Wis., Trinity Luth. Church	514.50	14.50	150.00	100.00	100.00			150.00
Elk Horn, Ia., the Homebuilders of Elk Horn Luth. Church for the two Children's Homes	50.00	50.00						
Royal, Ia., part of Bethlehem Luth. Church Harvest Festival for Elim Home	15.00	15.00						
Royal, Ia., Bethlehem Luth. Church	200.00		80.00		60.00			60.00
Royal, Ia., Bethlehem Luther League "Yes" pledges	35.00			10.00		25.00		
North Hollywood, Calif., Valley Luth. Church	325.00	25.00	100.00		100.00			100.00
Northfield, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Anton Madsen, a Christmas gift	3.00	3.00						
Northfield, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. Church	105.71							105.71
Cordova, Nebr., Ladies Aid of Our Savior's Luth. Church for the two Homes	10.00	10.00						
Pasadena, Calif., Bethany Luth. S. S.	10.00				10.00			
Racine, Wis., Gethsemane Luth. Church	1000.00		1000.00					
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church: Geo. Nielsen \$2, Hans Knudsen \$10, Anna Andersen \$2, Plate offering \$28.97	42.97							42.97
Shelby, Ia., Shelby Luth. S. S.	5.50							5.50
San Francisco, Miss Emma Mark in memory of Rev. L. H. Kjaer	5.00							5.00
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Churchwomen	55.00	55.00						
Flaxton, N. D., United Luth. Church Thanksgiving offering	33.30							33.30
Blair, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Lund in memory of Dr. H. F. Swansen.	10.00		10.00					
Eugene, Ore., Emmaus Luth. Church Ladies Aid, a mission offering	35.75			35.75				
Chicago, Ill., Frances and Edwin Jorgensen for the Harvey Park Mission, Denver, in memory of Thorvald Andersen, Selma, Calif.	25.00				25.00			
Kennard, Nebr., Emmaus Luth. Church	18.00							18.00
Lincoln, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church	100.00		60.00					40.00
Avoca, Ia., Ladies Aid of the English Luth. Church, a Christmas gift for the Oaks Home	10.00	10.00						
McCabe, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Smith of Ebenezer Church	10.00							10.00
Kenosha, Wis., St. Mary's Luth. Church	425.00	25.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			100.00
Kimballton, Ia., Bethany S. S.	10.00	10.00						
Kimballton, Ia., Bethany Bible Class	15.00		5.00		5.00	5.00		
Abdal, Nebr., Bethel Luth. Church	549.40	49.40	200.00	25.00	100.00	25.00	15.00	135.00
Sidney, Mich., the Dorcas Club of Immanuel Luth. Church in memory of Mrs. Carl Lamb	4.00				4.00			
Waupaca, Wis., Trinity Luth. Brotherhood in memory of Reid McLean	2.00				2.00			
Elk Horn, Ia., Mrs. Anna K. Olsen, Salem Home, in memory of her husband Jacob Olsen	10.00							10.00
Racine, Wis., Our Savior's Lutheran Church	1000.00							1000.00
Bloomington, Minn., in memory of Mrs. Mary Nelson of Trinity Church	5.00				5.00			
Castro Valley, Calif., Mrs. and Pastor H. M. Hansen in memory of Rev. L. H. Kjaer	10.00							10.00
Oregon, Wis., Ladies Aid of St. John's Luth. Church	20.30	20.30						
Exira, Ia., in memory of K. P. Hansen*	9.00				9.00			
Exira, Ia., in memory of Chris Andersen**	7.00				7.00			
Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen***	11.00					11.00		
Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen****	12.00							12.00
Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen*****	18.00	18.00						
Greenville, Mich., St. Paul's English Luth. Church	400.00		125.00	75.00	100.00			100.00
Avoca, Ia., English Luth. Church	140.00		40.00		50.00			50.00
Avoca, Ia., Rev. Einer Romer	5.00					5.00		
Clinton, Wis., Pella English Ev. Luth. Church	100.00		40.00		30.00			30.00
Denver, Colo., Mr. and Mrs. Egon W. Soderberg	20.00	10.00						10.00
Chicago, Ill., Golgotha Luth. Ladies Aid Society	180.00		50.00		100.00	30.00		
Brush, Colo., Mrs. Esther Westergaard	20.00	5.00			15.00			
Saxeville, Wis., St. John's Luth. Church	14.47							14.47
Beresford, S. D., in memory of Mrs. Christine Petersen from friends	14.00				14.00			
Reedley, Calif., Ebenezer Luth. Ladies Aid	25.00						25.00	
Oshkosh, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church Thanksgiving offering	74.10							74.10
Oshkosh, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	200.00	25.00	75.00	25.00	75.00			
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church, Thanksgiving offering	169.51							169.51
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	230.49	30.49	100.00		100.00			
Portland, Ore., members of Bethany Luth. Church: Mrs. O. J. Holm \$10, Iver Moldver \$10	20.00				20.00			
Portland, Ore., Ruth and Isa Isaacsen in memory of Sena Carlsen, Altadena, Calif.	5.00				5.00			
Cedar Falls, Ia., in memory of Mrs. N. T. Nelson	10.00				5.00			5.00
Ord, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church Thanksgiving offering	17.50							17.50
Elk Horn, Ia., Rorbeck Ladies Aid	80.00	20.00	20.00		25.00	10.00	5.00	
Audubon, Ia., Helping Hand Society of Our Savior's Luth. Church	25.00					25.00		
TOTAL	94132.23	7691.24	29084.69	6886.51	23954.04	3681.94	669.87	22163.94

* Exira, Ia., in memory of K. P. Hansen. To save space the words Mr. and Mrs. are omitted. E. H. Petersen, Bill Andersen, Louie Henningsen, Thomas Toft, Donald Toft, Kenneth Toft, Chris Stone, Everett Crees. \$9.00 for Home Mission.

** Exira, Ia., in memory of Chris Andersen: Mrs. W. E. Young, Harry Beck, Harold Stadsvold, Mrs. Christina Petersen, Albert Christensen, Thomas Toft and E. H. Petersen. \$7.00 for Home Mission.

*** Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen: Mrs. Taleta Elfeldt, Nels Jorgensen, Martin Jorgensen, Will Jorgensen, Sr., Merle Haselbarth, Miss Laura and Lillie Hansen, Mrs. Edna Schneider. \$11.00 for Indian Mission.

**** Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen: Orville Nielsen, Emerald Nielsen, Wesley Nielsen, Richard Nielsen, Merle Nielsen, Clair Ingram and John Leistad. \$12.00 for the Pension Fund.

***** Minden, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen: Emil Kimle, Duane Kimle, Mrs. Bradley Booker, Janet Nielsen, Mary Jo Nielsen, Beverly Nielsen, Darlene Nielsen, Bobby Nielsen, Susan Nielsen, Patricia Nielsen, Larry Nielsen, La Mayne Nielsen, Allan Nielsen and Randall Nielsen. \$18.00 for the Children's Homes.

Foreign Missions	China L.W.A.	Jewish Mission	Sudan Mission	Santal Mission	Amer. Mission	Japan Mission	Total Received	Foreign Missions
Budgets:	40815.00	131.24	15000.00	10000.00	16000.00	20227.00	57289.04	472.03
ously acknowledged	26222.99	76.98	9237.86	4942.79	5353.07	10852.08		
r, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. Ove T. Anderson in memory of Dr. H. Inadomi							10.00	10.00
abe, Mont., Eben-Ezer Luth. Church, by John Hoffman, Seattle, Wash.				25.00			100.00	25.00
n, Nebr., Immanuel Luth. Church				25.00			27.77	27.77
Horn, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Milo Andersen							5.00	5.00
dena, Calif., Marie Hendrickson in memory of her sister				25.00			25.00	
dena, Calif., Ben Knudsen				4.00			4.00	
rg, S. D., Spring Valley Luth. S. S., Thanksgiving offering							6.40	6.40
rg, S. D., Spring Valley Luth. S. S. for Miss Nissen's Mission Field							4.48	4.48
pton, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hansen						50.00	100.00	50.00
Moines, Ia., Highland Park Luth. Church				35.28			35.28	
na, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jorgensen of Pella Lutheran Church				25.00	50.00		200.00	50.00
abb, Ill., Emmaus Luth. S. S.				5.00	5.00		20.00	5.00
thfield, Minn., in memory of Jens Bundgaard: Mrs. Anna Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sorensen, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Raadt, Pastor and Mrs. John Nielsen, St. Peter's Ladies Aid							8.00	8.00
kin, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. Glen E. Schiermeyer in memory of Mother							12.50	12.50
nah, Wis., W.M.S. of Our Savior's Luth. Church for Mission Work in Sumatra, a branch of the China Mission		10.00					10.00	
adena, Calif., Mrs. Elvira Segers in memory of Miss Sena Carlsen				2.50			2.50	
adena, Calif., the W.M.S. of Bethany Luth. Church in memory of Miss Sena Carlsen				5.00			5.00	
land, Ore., Primary Department of Bethany Luth. S. S., accumulated mission offerings					26.60	26.60	53.20	26.60
oklyn, Wis., Brooklyn Luth. Church							144.00	144.00
py Eye, Minn., Hans Knudsen for Dr. Winther's students					25.00		25.00	
Rey, Calif., Japanese Ladies Auxiliary in memory of Dr. H. Inadomi					5.00	5.00	5.00	
abb, Ill., Emmaus Luth. Church in memory of Jens Bundgaard							3.50	3.50
nboldt, Ia., Dorcas Ladies Aid of Trinity Luth. Church				15.00	15.00	15.00	60.00	15.00
nto, Ont., Canada, Mrs. Anna Bondo and Mrs. C. J. Johnson in memory of Mrs. Mary Bondo, Underwood, Ia.					5.00		5.00	
apaca, Wis., Trinity Luth. Church							309.30	309.30
ar Falls, Ia., Mrs. Bernadine Miller in memory of Hans Nielsen							3.00	
balton, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Justinus Johansen, Clara and Elina Johansen			3.00					3.00
al, Ia., part of Bethlehem Luth. Church Harvest Festival							10.00	10.00
al, Ia., Bethlehem Luth. League "Yes" pledges				123.50	123.50	123.50	494.00	123.50
adena, Calif., Bethany Luth. S. S.				2.50	2.50	2.50	10.00	2.50
lehurst, Nebr., Ladies Aid of Our Savior's Luth. Church				10.00	10.00	10.00	40.00	10.00
by, Ia., Shelby Luth. S. S.					5.50	5.50	10.00	
len, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church							101.25	101.25
rg, S. D., Marvin Andersen of Spring Valley Luth. Church			2.00				2.00	
ha, Nebr., Pella Luth. Church							50.30	50.30
imme, Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Bidstrup				5.00	5.00		10.00	
py Eye, Minn., Rev. and Mrs. A. V. Neve in memory of Dr. H. Inadomi					5.00	5.00	5.00	
Rey, Calif., Pella Ladies Aid				10.89	10.89	10.89	43.57	10.90
nard, Nebr., Emmaus Luth. Church							29.15	29.15
ohn, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church							50.00	50.00
ar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. S. S. for support of Daniel Jha at the Mohulpahari Hospital				125.00	125.00		125.00	
sh, Colo., First English Luth. Church							173.80	173.80
ter, Ia., Pastor and Mrs. Henry N. Hansen in memory of Dr. H. Inadomi					2.00	2.00	2.00	
bsha, Wis., St. Mary's Luth. Church							2.00	2.00
balton, Ia., Bethany Bible Class			5.00				5.00	
ns, Ia., Gethsemane Luth. Church, Thanksgiving offering							30.52	30.52
sen, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Niels Kloster of Gethsemane Church, Oyens							10.00	10.00
enville, Mich., from friends in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Terp, Chicago					5.00	5.00	5.00	
enville, Mich., from friends in memory of Ole Jensen					5.00	5.00	5.00	
enville, Mich., from friends in memory of Wm. Hanson				5.00			5.00	
enville, Mich., from friends in memory of Julia Sorensen							5.00	
ago, Ill., Atonement Luth. S. S. for Munshi Tudu				40.00			40.00	
andard, Alberta, Canada, Mr. and Mrs. A. Myrthu in memory of Thorvald Andersen, Selma, Calif.							2.00	2.00
ra, Ia., Martin Toft and Christine Toft in memory of K. P. Hansen							2.00	2.00
den, Nebr., in memory of John J. B. Nielsen: Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nielsen, Verndale, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Orval Christensen, the Fredericksburg Choir							10.00	10.00
enville, Mich., St. Paul's Engl. Luth. Church							220.15	220.15
ca, Ia., Rev. Einer Romer					5.00		5.00	
ver, Colo., Mr. and Mrs. Egon W. Soderberg						20.00	20.00	
ago, Ill., Golgotha Luth. Ladies Aid Society				30.00	30.00	30.00	120.00	30.00
sh, Colo., Mrs. Esther Westergaard				10.00	10.00	5.00	40.00	10.00
den, Nebr., Fredericksburg Ladies Aid in memory of John B. Nielsen							5.00	5.00
Horn, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Jacobsen				25.00			50.00	25.00
esford, S. D., Mrs. Jessen and Leona in memory of Mrs. Christine Petersen							5.00	5.00
iley, Calif., Ebenezer Luth. Ladies Aid				25.00	25.00	25.00	100.00	25.00
ar Falls, Ia., in memory of Mrs. N. T. Nelson				5.00	5.00		10.00	5.00
ar Falls, Ia., in memory of Hans Nelson					7.00	8.00	22.00	7.00
ine, Wis., Miss Marion Jensen				10.00	10.00	10.00	40.00	10.00
Nebr., Bethany Luth. Aid							10.00	
netoon, Nebr., Bethesda Luth. Ladies Aid					10.00		10.00	
mont, Nebr., Church Women of First Luth. Church for the proposed Hospital in Sudan for Margaret Nissen							85.44	85.44
ter, Ia., Mrs. Lena Brown of Nazareth Luth. Ladies Aid					25.00		25.00	
Horn, Ia., Rorbeck Ladies Aid							20.00	20.00
ubon, Ia., Helping Hand Soc. of Our Savior's Luth. Church				25.00	25.00	25.00	300.00	25.00
al, Ia., Bethlehem Luth.				50.00	50.00	50.00	200.00	
nto, Canada, St. Ansgar Ladies Aid					6.60	6.60	6.60	
nto, Canada, Mary and Martha Society					14.50	14.50	14.50	
TOTAL	27717.21	136.24	9865.11	5546.18	5850.66	11362.57	61064.75	499.80

PLEASE NOTE: A couple of weeks ago there was a \$5.00 gift to the Sudan Mission in memory of Andrew Lamb, Sr., Sidney, Mont. It should have been **Sidney, Mich.**
In last issue of the Ansgar Lutheran was a receipt for \$32.13 for our 4 Foreign Missions from Trinity Luth. Sunday School, Norma, N. It should have been Trinity Sunday School, **Kenmare, N. Dak.**

ha, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jorgensen: Received with thanks.
For Dana Building Fund..... \$25.00
For Church Extension Fund..... 25.00
Blair, Nebraska, December 8, 1955.
Total \$50.00 H. J. Hansen, Treasurer

"Fear not . . . for unto you is born . . . a Savior."



Fear haunts the world today. Fear of the past and fear of the future . . . fear of our weakness and fear of our strength . . . fear of others and fear of ourselves . . . fear of life and fear of death.

As Christians we proclaim anew our glorious Christmas message to a world sorely in need of it. May our lives throughout the year be a witness of the peace and joy which is the possession of each one of us who kneels before the manger.

"...for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people ..."

*Season's Greetings from the Staff
of the Lutheran Publishing House*

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